

But from ashes come diamonds and, despite this barbaric campaign, the Polish desire for freedom and liberty could not be extinguished—not even by the decades of communist oppression which followed the end of the war. Such courage and resilience continues to define the Polish people.

Today, Poland is a successful democracy and one of our strongest military allies. More to the point, Poland's leadership on issues related to democracy and human rights gives true meaning to the alliance concept of "shared values." Poland has tirelessly support democratic movements in Northern Africa and Eastern Europe, particularly in Tunisia, through democracy activists and transition experts, and Belarus. Poland has served as a regional force in the effort to encourage human rights and democracy in Belarus in the wake of the December 2010 post-election political crackdown, maintaining free media outlets that operate in Belarus and opening Polish universities to students expelled for pro-democracy activities.

On July 1, Poland assumed the six-months rotating Presidency of the European Union. It can only strengthen our transatlantic alliance to have the EU led by a country that has accomplished so much over the past 20 years both political and economically. As it happens, Poland has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe and is the only EU country not faced with a recession amidst the global financial crisis.

As chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and co-chairman of the Congressional Poland Caucus, I commend Poland's leadership on democracy and human rights throughout the OSCE region and globally. Polish-American ties remain strong and steadfast because of such dedication to these common values. More than that, however, I have unwavering respect and admiration for the people of Poland, whose courage and determination in the face of so many historic tragedies—of which the Warsaw Massacre is only one example—is a source of continued inspiration.

TRIBUTE TO SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

In 1904, a small group of top professionals in Philadelphia set out to create an organization that would provide a vehicle for black men of high stature to network and learn the best from one another. These visionaries were Dr. Algernon B. Jackson, Dr. Henry McKee Minton, Dr. Edwin C. Howard and Dr. Richard J. Warrick.

At that time of Sigma Pi Phi's founding, accomplished black men lived and worked in isolation as they were not offered participation in professional and cultural associations organized by the white community. Inequities such as racism, discrimination, segregation, and inequality were rampant throughout the United

States. It took the ingenuity and courage displayed by these men based on their shared conditions to form an organization that would not only bring them together in fellowship, but benefit the country they loved for more than a century to come.

To quote Dr. Minton "professional men should have an organization that should be a fraternity in the true sense of the word; one whose chief thought should not be to visit the sick and bury the dead, but to bind men of like qualities, tastes and attainments into a close and sacred union that they might know the best of one another." Members would not be "selected on the basis of brains alone—but in addition to congeniality, culture and good fellowship; that they shall have behind them [at initiation] a record of accomplishment, not merely be men of promise and good education." His fraternity would contain the "best of Skull and Bones of Yale and of Phi Beta Kappa."

Today, the dream of Drs. Jackson, Minton, Howard and Warrick lives on and is stronger than ever. Sigma Pi Phi has over 5,000 members and 126 chapters throughout the United States and the West Indies. Members of Sigma Pi Phi have provided leadership and service during the Great Depression, World War I, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and addressed social issues such as urban housing, and many other critical issues affecting all people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Sigma Pi Phi for their tireless work which has benefited our great nation for more than a century. Our country is a better one because of Sigma Pi Phi and I am proud to honor them today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 692.

Had I been present for rollcall 692, on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 67, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING HENRY GIVENS, JR.,
PH.D., PRESIDENT, HARRIS-
STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY,
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native St. Louisan, Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., who has served as president of Harris-Stowe State University since it became a state institution in 1979. He was educated in the St. Louis public schools and earned his baccalaureate degree at Lincoln University in Mis-

souri. He earned his master's degree at the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University. His postdoctoral studies in higher education administration were at Harvard University.

Dr. Givens' professional experience in education is both broad and varied. He began his career as a teacher in the Webster Groves School District and became principal of the first prototype of a magnet school in the nation. Before leaving the Webster Groves public schools, he held the post of Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools. Soon after, he became the first African-American to serve Missouri as Assistant Commissioner of Education, which he did for 5 years.

At the request of the Governor of Missouri, Dr. Givens served as interim president at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, during a financial crisis in 1987, while continuing his duties at Harris-Stowe. Such an appointment was without precedent in Missouri public higher education.

Under the leadership of Dr. Givens, Harris-Stowe has greatly expanded its degree programs; has significantly increased its facilities—from one building to seven, and including, for the first time in its long history of over 150 years, the new state-of-the-art William L. Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center and the Rev. Dr. William G. Gillespie Residence Hall and Student Center. An eighth new building, a second residence hall, is currently under construction. In addition, Harris-Stowe has opened its first business school satellite campus in South St. Louis; has expanded the University's academic program to include 14 degree offerings in selected applied professional disciplines; has tripled its student enrollment since entering the State System; and has changed its status from College to University, to name a few of its accomplishments.

Dr. Givens has served as Chairman of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Celebration Commission for Missouri since its inception in 1986 to 2011. Under his dynamic leadership, the State of Missouri now hosts the second-largest celebration in the nation, extending to every corner of Missouri. Dr. Givens was appointed by President Barack Obama to the HBCU Capital Finance Program Advisory Board, and has served in the past and present on local, national, and international groups as a consultant, including the U.S. State Department at its American School in Lima, Peru. In addition, he currently serves on several local, state and national Boards and Commissions. He serves on the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority board, and on local and national Corporate Boards of Directors, including, U.S. Bank (Regional).

He is a past board member of Laclede Gas/Laclede Group, Peabody Energy, Inc., and Automobile Club of Missouri (AAA). President Givens is affiliated with numerous national and local professional and social organizations, and has received over 125 national, state and local awards and recognitions, including honorary doctorate degrees from Saint Louis University, Lincoln University and Washington University-St. Louis.

Dr. Givens is married to Belma Evans Givens. They have a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.